

Appl. No. : 10/764,991
Filed : January 26, 2004

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. **(Previously presented)** A tubular wire support for combination with a sheath to produce a bifurcated endoluminal prosthesis, said tubular wire support comprising:

a main body support structure having a proximal end, a distal end and a central lumen extending therethrough, the support structure comprising at least a first and second axially adjacent tubular segments, each segment comprising a plurality of wall struts connected by proximal and distal bends;

a first branch support structure having a proximal end, a distal end and a central lumen therethrough connected to the main body support structure;

a second branch support structure having a proximal end, a distal end and a central lumen extending therethrough, connected to the main body support structure;

at least two sliding links in between the first and second segments; and
each of the at least two sliding links configured for axial movement along a wall strut.

2-33. **(Canceled)**

34. **(Previously presented)** The tubular wire support of Claim 1, further comprising a tubular sheath on the wire support.

35. **(Previously presented)** The tubular wire support of Claim 2, wherein the sheath comprises a PTFE sleeve surrounding at least a central portion of the wire support.

36. **(Previously presented)** The tubular wire support of Claim 1, wherein the main body support structure and the first and second branch support structure are self-expandable from a radially collapsed state to a radially expanded state.

37. **(Previously presented)** The tubular wire support of Claim 1, wherein the wire in each support structure comprises a series of proximal bends, a series of distal bends and a series of struts connecting the proximal and distal bends to form a tubular segment.

38. (Previously presented) The tubular wire support of Claim 37, wherein each tubular segment comprises from about 4 proximal bends to about 12 proximal bends.

39. (Previously presented) The tubular wire support of Claim 1, wherein the first and second branch support structures are pivotably attached to the main body support structure.

40. (Previously presented) A tubular wire support for combination with a sheath to produce a bifurcated endoluminal prosthesis, said tubular wire support comprising:

a main body support structure having a proximal end, a distal end and a central lumen extending therethrough-and at least a first and second axially adjacent zig-zag tubular segments;

a first branch support structure having a proximal end, a distal end and a central lumen therethrough connected to the main body support structure; and

a second branch support structure having a proximal end, a distal end and a central lumen extending therethrough, connected to the main body support structure,

wherein the first and second segments are joined to each other by a plurality of sliding links.

41. (Previously presented) The tubular wire support of Claim 40, wherein the main body support structure and the first and second branch support structure are self-expandable from a radially collapsed state to a radially expanded state.

42. (Previously presented) An endoluminal prosthesis, comprising an elongate flexible wire, formed into a plurality of axially adjacent tubular segments spaced along an axis, each tubular segment comprising a zig-zag section of the wire, having a plurality of proximal bends and distal bends, at least one of the plurality of proximal bends and plurality of distal bends having loops thereon, with the wire continuing between each adjacent tubular segment, wherein the prosthesis is radially compressible into a first, reduced cross sectional configuration for implantation into a body lumen, and self expandable to a second, enlarged cross sectional configuration at a treatment site in a body lumen, and wherein at least

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some of the bends in one tubular segment are slidably connected to at least some of the wall sections in the adjacent tubular segment.

43. **(Previously presented)** An endoluminal prosthesis as in Claim 42, comprising at least three segments formed from said wire.

44. **(Previously presented)** An endoluminal prosthesis as in Claim 43, further comprising an outer tubular sleeve surrounding at least a portion of the prosthesis.

45. **(Previously presented)** An endoluminal prosthesis as in Claim 44, wherein the sleeve further comprises at least one lateral perfusion port extending therethrough.

46. **(Previously presented)** An endoluminal prosthesis as in Claim 42, wherein the prosthesis has a proximal end and a distal end, and at least one of the proximal end and distal end are expandable to a larger diameter than a central section of the prosthesis in an unconstrained expansion.

47. **(Previously presented)** An endoluminal prosthesis as in Claim 42, wherein the prosthesis has an expansion ratio of at least about 1:4.

48. **(Previously presented)** An endoluminal prosthesis as in Claim 47, wherein the prosthesis has an expansion ratio of at least about 1:5.

49. **(Previously presented)** An endoluminal prosthesis as in Claim 42, wherein the prosthesis has an expanded diameter of at least about 20 mm in an unconstrained expansion, and the prosthesis is implantable using a catheter no greater than about 20 French.

50. **(Previously presented)** A prosthesis as in Claim 49, wherein the prosthesis has an expanded diameter of at least about 25 mm, and is implantable on a delivery device having a diameter of no more than about 20 French.

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COMMENTS

The abstract has been amended to correct the informality noted by the Examiner. A "Replacement Sheet" for the Abstract can be found in the Appendix.

Claims 1 and 34-50 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-35 of U.S. Patent No. 6,733,523. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection of these claims. Nevertheless, to advance prosecution, Applicant is submitting with this Amendment a Terminal disclaimer to overcome the obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims and specification. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney in order to resolve such issue promptly.

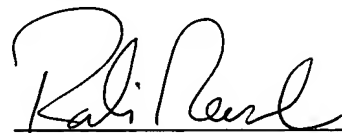
Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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